

worlds, the Pope would not have to make his rounds in a bulletproof vehicle. In all of these cases, we have willingly made certain sacrifices in freedom because we recognize that there are larger interests at stake. In the case of the metal detectors, for example, the safety of our children, and our teachers, and the establishment of a stable climate for instruction to take place, is paramount.

If the flag amendment is about anything, it's about holding the line on respect, on the values that you and I risked our lives to preserve. We live in a society that respects little and honors still less. Most, if not all, of today's ills can be traced to a breakdown in respect—for laws, for traditions, for people, for the things held sacred by the great bulk of us.

Just as the godless are succeeding at removing God from everyday life, growing numbers of people have come to feel they're not answerable to anything larger than themselves. The message seems to be that nothing takes priority over the needs and desires and "rights" of the individual. Nothing is forbidden. Everything is permissible, from the shockingly vulgar music that urges kids to go out and shoot cops, to "art" that depicts Christ plunging into a vat of urine—to the desecration of a cherished symbol like the U.S. Flag.

Are these really the freedoms our forefathers envisioned when they drafted the Bill of Rights? Thomas Jefferson himself did not regard liberty as a no-strings proposition. His concept of democracy presupposed a nation of honorable citizens. Remove the honorable motives from a free society and what you have left is not democracy, but anarchy. What you have left, eventually, is "Lord of the Flies."

Amid all this, the flag stands for something. If respect for the flag were institutionalized, and children were brought up to understand the unique collection of principles it represents, there would be inevitable benefits to society, benefits that would help turn the tide of today's chaos and disrespect. For no one who takes such principles to heart—no one who sees the flag as an untouchable symbol of democracy, of decency—could possibly do the things that some people do, these days, in the name of freedom.

The flag stands for something miraculous that took life upon these shores more than two centuries ago and, if we only let it, will live on for centuries more. It stands for a glorious idea that has survived every challenge, that has persevered in the face of external forces who promised to "bury" us and internal forces which promised to tear us apart. Let us never forget this.

And let us not forget that 63 out of 99 senators voted with us, or that we won over 375 legislators in total. Our efforts were no more wasted than were the efforts to take remote outposts in the Pacific a half-century ago. Those efforts, too, failed at first, but eventually we prevailed.

We undertook a noble fight in trying to save our flag, and the fact that we have suffered a temporary setback does not diminish the nobility of what we fought for. This is not over by a long shot. They will hear from us again.

TRIBUTE TO ELIZABETH DOUPHNER

HON. ANTHONY BEILENSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. BEILENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of Topanga, California's

most dedicated and admired citizens, Elizabeth Doupner, who passed away recently.

Betty Doupner served as executive officer-clerk of the Board of Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains, formerly of Topanga-Las Virgenes Resource Conservation District, which carries out environmental education and restoration projects. During the 34 years Betty was employed by the district, she watched it grow from an operation with one employee, herself, to the 50-employee agency it is today.

In her position with the district, Betty worked tirelessly for our community. She helped secure conservation services for landowners in the area, wrote the district's quarterly newsletter, coordinated the annual plant sale, hired personnel, maintained all the district's records, and helped establish and maintain the district's Vance Hoyt Memorial Library. She became an expert on the law governing the operation of resource conservation districts in order to properly advise the district board.

Betty was also responsible for writing and obtaining the first grants that expanded the district's education program. The large number of awards to the district for conservation and education are a testimony to the effectiveness of her work, for which she was twice honored with a distinguished service award by the Employee Association of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts.

Betty contributed much to the community in other ways as well. For her volunteer work with schools, the Women's Club, and the Strawberry Festival, the Topanga Chamber of Commerce recognized her as the 1979 "Citizen of the Year." She was also a volunteer with Share International, where she helped publish its monthly magazine.

Betty Doupner's warmth, enthusiasm, and dedication are greatly missed by all of her colleagues at the district, and by everyone else who knew her. The entire Topanga community joins me in expressing our deep sorrow to her family and friends, and our heartfelt appreciation for her many years of outstanding public service.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAWRENCE G. REUTER, METRO GENERAL MANAGER

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of the general manager of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit System [WMATA], Mr. Lawrence G. Reuter. It is indeed the Washington area's loss that Mr. Reuter has chosen to accept the position of president of New York City's transit system.

Mr. Reuter, as general manager of WMATA for the past 2 years, has consistently proven that he knows how to run a railroad. His administrative skills have been evident as he has kept the fast-track program, designed to complete the planned 103-mile metrorail system in an accelerated time period, on schedule and within budget. Under his stewardship, WMATA now has the remaining four rail segments under construction. Completion will finally provide a complete network linking all of the sub-

urban communities to all of the District of Columbia.

Perhaps the most difficult issues Mr. Reuter has addressed during his tenure at Metro are the fiscal challenges faced by all jurisdictions throughout this region. He has had to be resourceful in order to preserve quality Metro service at a time when State and local response to these budgets are lean, and Federal transit assistance has been diminishing.

Mr. Reuter has provided the kind of leadership necessary to run a public service organization in these tight fiscal times. He has consistently encouraged private sector partnerships in order to fully capitalize on the public investment in Metro. He was instrumental in the negotiation of an agreement with the RF&P Corp. to construct, entirely with private funds, a Metrorail station at Potomac Yard in Alexandria, VA. This is the first agreement of this type ever executed in the United States. His commitment to public-private partnerships has enabled Metro to streamline its joint development program making it easier for the private sector to invest in properties near Metrorail stations. His efforts to bring private sector investment to locations in proximity to Metro reflects his firm view that this region must fully utilize our investment in Metrorail. Mr. Reuter recognizes that the Metro system provides economic opportunity to all of the communities along its lines as well as environmental benefits to the entire region.

Larry Reuter has demonstrated his extraordinary ability to lead during one of the most challenging times for the transit authority. This region owes Mr. Reuter our gratitude for preserving our investment in the Metro system and for continuing to provide quality public transit service to the entire National Capital region.

TRIBUTE TO JONATHAN NEWTON

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 1996

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, the volunteer fire service community and the entire State of Delaware suffered a tragic loss recently with the death of Jonathan Newton. Mr. Newton, at the young age of 31, was the consummate volunteer firefighter. At the time of the accident, he was en route to a fire safety program at a local middle school. It was not uncommon for Mr. Newton to volunteer his time and energy to programs that heightened public awareness about fire safety. In fact, his community education work earned him recognition as Firefighter of the Year for the Hockessin Fire Company.

When a firefighter in Delaware suffers a tragedy, it is felt by the entire fire service community. They are like a family, a unique group of individuals who take great pride in their heritage of volunteer service. Friends and family members alike spoke of Mr. Newton's altruism, and fondness toward children, as he devoted so much of his time to educating them about fire safety.

What is most tragic about Mr. Newton's death is that he leaves behind a family. He has a wife who is 7 months pregnant and two children—all of whom will always have a special place in the Delaware volunteer fire service family.